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profession of statistics is confronted with an opportunity for unparalleled service to the medical sciences, among them preventive medicine.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GEORGE FRANCIS ATKINSON

THE faculty of Cornell University has passed the following resolutions on the death of Professor Atkinson:

The University Faculty desires to express its profound sorrow and its sense of great loss through the death, on November 14, of George Francis Atkinson.

Since his return to his alma mater in 1892, he has been a member of this faculty. In 1896 he was appointed professor of botany. During this period of more than a quarter of a century, which was devoted unceasingly and enthusiastically to research, he became an active working member of numerous scientific societies, and attained an eminent position among the botanists of the world. In mycology, particularly, he had an international reputation and he was regarded as the foremost authority on the fleshy fungi of this country. In June, 1917, the board of trustees generously relieved him of all further teaching and administrative duties in order that he might devote his time entirely to his researches in this field. His exceptional ability and high place among American men of science was formally recognized by his election to the National Academy of Sciences, in April, 1918. To his services as a teacher in that higher sense of the word which implies ability to impart enthusiasm and love for research, the success of the large number of botanists throughout the country who have been his pupils bears glowing testimony.

His end came suddenly as the result of influenza followed by pneumonia, incurred during a collecting trip on the Pacific coast in pursuance of the great monographic study of fleshy fungi upon which he had been engaged for many years, and which was nearing completion. In the death of Professor Atkinson not this faculty alone but the

whole community of working men of science have lost a gifted colleague; a man of genius who contributed much to the world's knowledge of botany. His work lives after him, not only in his writings but in the inspiration imparted to a younger generation of investigators in the field in which he was an honored master.

### MEDICAL RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA

THE *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine has been established in Melbourne in connection with the Melbourne Hospital, through the generosity of the trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Fund. The institute is controlled by a board representing the trustees, the University of Melbourne and the Melbourne Hospital. A spacious building, including a basement and three stories, has been erected at a cost of over \$60,000 in immediate connection with the pathologic department of the hospital. The hospital itself has recently been entirely rebuilt and now contains 350 beds. Applications for the offices of director and of first assistant of the institute are being invited through the agent-general for Victoria, Melbourne Place, Strand, London, from whom full information may be obtained. The director has the management of the institution; devotes his whole time to this work, is responsible for keeping research as the primary object of the institution, will give all assistance to the medical staff and other officers of the Melbourne Hospital in postmortem work and clinical pathology, will make arrangements for clinical instruction and laboratory instruction to medical students in postgraduate work, and provide or maintain the comforts of patients or others residing in, or who use the hospital. His term of service is five years and he is eligible for reappointment. His salary is \$5,000 a year, and in addition, the board will procure an endowment insurance on the director's life, to be payable at the age of sixty or predecease, the annual premium for this insurance being \$375. If the director comes from America, \$625 will be allowed for travel expenses. Ap-

plicants should be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five. All applications must be accompanied by original or certified copies of testimonials, schedule of experience, list of research work and photograph. It is expected that the director will take duty, October 1, 1919. The first assistant director shall be not over thirty-five years of age, and will be expected to devote his entire time to the work of the institute as directed by the board and under the instruction of the director. He will have the management of the institution in the absence of the director, will give such assistance as may be prescribed to the medical staff or other officers of the Melbourne Hospital in postmortem work and clinical pathology and bacteriology, and will take such part as may be prescribed in the instruction of medical students in laboratory work and in postgraduate instruction. He holds office for five years and is eligible for reappointment. His salary will be \$3,000 a year.

#### THE BRITISH GUIANA RESEARCH STATION OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

IN his introduction to the volume "Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana" Colonel Theodore Roosevelt said: "The establishment of a Tropical Research Station in British Guiana by the New York Zoological Society marks the beginning of a wholly new type of biological work, capable of literally illimitable expansion. It provides for intensive study, in the open field of the teeming animal life of the tropics."

Almost every member of the staff of this station has been serving in the American army, and now at the conclusion of the war, an expedition is about to start for British Guiana to resume scientific investigation. The financial support necessary for this undertaking has been provided by the New York Zoological Society through the generosity of five members of the board of managers, Col. Anthony R. Kuser, C. Ledyard Blair, Andrew Carnegie, George J. Gould, and A. Barton Hepburn, and the requisite leave of absence has been granted to the staff in the service of the society.

On February 26 three of the staff sailed for the south, William Beebe, director, Alfred Emerson, research assistant, and John Tee-Van, artist and preparateur. Their outfit will include the most complete laboratory equipment ever taken to the tropics, and the station will be reopened under most auspicious circumstances at Katabo, its permanent headquarters. This is a most beautiful site, shaded with hundred foot bamboos, at the very edge of the jungle, and directly at the junction of two great rivers, the Mazaruni and the Cuyuni. Here several bungalows and a large laboratory await occupancy, and here it is hoped that many of our American scientific men may find a stimulating field for the prosecution of their particular lines of research.

While each member of the regular staff will undertake some special investigation, yet it is the intention of the director that all will unite in some definite ecological study of the interrelations of certain groups of organisms, in the hope of gaining some insight into more general problems of evolution, of adaptation, of survival. The results of all the studies will be published by the New York Zoological Society in the second volume of "Tropical Wild Life."

Three years ago Colonel Theodore Roosevelt visited the Station and wrote of its functions and activities. This year Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the Zoological Society and of the American Museum, accompanies the expedition and will spend several weeks in observing the unique conditions under which the undertaking carried on, and will advise as to its extension and future.

Professor William Morton Wheeler, of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, and Professor Ulric Dahlgren, of Princeton University, and Professor Alfred Reese, of the University of West Virginia, will join the station this year, for observations on ants, electric fishes and crocodiles, respectively. Director N. L. Britton, of the New York Botanical Garden, is planning a complete survey of the forests.